

**Greetings** to our members, those from United Congregational Church in Conway and all our friends at home,

**This Sunday is Pentecost!** Scripture records that on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem following the resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples and others and the church was born! This Sunday we will celebrate Christianity's birthday in worship.

**We are back in the sanctuary for worship.** Please remember that it is important to make a reservation with Diantha, since our seating is limited. You may reach her at 413-6592 or through her email, [foxtowne@gmail.com](mailto:foxtowne@gmail.com). Remember to wear a mask and keep distance while entering and leaving the building.

**We are recording our services.** While we are not able to live stream our services, we are recording them and uploading them on YouTube within a day after the service. When the video is released an email notice will be sent out with the link.

**Sunday, May 29 is Memorial Sunday.** We will be remembering those who gave their lives for our nation and offer prayers for peace.

**Our Safety Procedures** will be changing as the state removes restrictions. You will be notified through email when changes occur. If you are not sure, always choose the safer option.

Looking forward to seeing you in worship!

Pastor Rob

**Welcome to Sunday Worship**  
May 23, 2021

**Good Morning** to our members, those from United Congregational Church in Conway and all our friends at home. This Sunday is Pentecost. One of the three major holy days on the Christian calendar, it is the least recognized. This service centers itself on the birth of the church in Jerusalem with the arrival of the Holy Spirit.

**Prayer Requests:** We are accepting requests for prayer (healing, comfort, thanksgiving, and others). Please send your requests to the Pastor at [pastor01089@gmail.com](mailto:pastor01089@gmail.com). Requests will then be sent out through our email list to the congregation for our common prayer life during the week. PLEASE remember that all prayer requests received become public knowledge. If you are uncertain if your request for another might be confidential, do not send it.

**And now let us be in worship**

**Call to Worship** (Responsive, L=Leader, P=People)  
L Spirit of the Living God, now descend on me!

**P Spirit of the Living God, now descend on me!**

L Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me!

**P Spirit of the Living God, now descend on me!**

**Unison Morning Prayer & the Lord's Prayer**

**Loving God, you have called us this day to be your hands and feet in this world. Grant us your guidance and your sustenance as we answer. Help us to become people of purpose, people of peace and people of power in Christ. May this day bring to us the gift of your Holy Spirit as we answer your call. For the sake of Christ who taught us to pray saying...*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***

### **Prayers of the People**

On this day of Pentecost our morning prayers focus on the gift of the Holy Spirit and our humanity and experience in life. This is a first person prayer, written by Ted Loder titled: *Turn Your Spirit Loose*.

O God, turn your spirit loose now, and me with it, that I may go to where the edge is to face with you the shape of my mortality; the inescapable struggle and loneliness and pain which remind me that I am not god after all, that you have made me with hard limits, limits to my strength, my knowledge, my days. Facing those limits, Lord, grant me grace to live to the limit of being unflinchingly alive, fully alive, of experiencing every fragile, miraculous, bloody, juicy, aching, beautiful ounce of being a human being created in your own image. Of doing my duty, and a little more; of loving the people around me, my friends, and my enemies, of humbling myself to take others seriously and delightedly; of applying my heart to the wisdom of simplicity, the freedom of honesty.

O God, turn your spirit loose here, in this place, and me with it, that I may go where the silence is to face you with the utter mystery of questions without answers, pain without balm, sorrow without comfort, and fears without relief, which hound my days and haunt my sleep. Facing the mystery, Lord, grant me grace to wrestle with it until I name the fears and force them to set me free to move on with whatever limp I'm left with. O God, turn your spirit loose now and me with it so that I may trust, despite the uncertainty, in the cross and in your Kingdom coming, and so, I move on and pray on, with Jesus my friend and redeemer, who taught me to come to you with my prayers. (Personal prayer and meditation) O God, turn your spirit loose now and us with it, that these our prayers may rise to you, and that your spirit may continue to move us ever deeper into the Pentecost of our faith in Jesus Christ. Amen

**Scripture Lesson:** Acts 2:1-11

After the reading, you may reflect on this passage.

**Sermon:** *Ears to Hear, Eyes to See.*

**Benediction:**